



NEWS RELEASE

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KANAWHA COUNTY WOMAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGALLY PROVIDING FIREARMS TO HUSBAND

CHARLESTON, WV – United States Attorney Charles T. Miller and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today that **SHARON A. CALDWELL, 51, of Winifrede, West Virginia**, was sentenced by United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver, Jr. to 12 months and one day in prison for knowingly providing nine firearms to her husband, Brian Douglas Caldwell, after he had been adjudicated a mental defective. In addition to her prison sentence, SHARON CALDWELL was ordered to serve three years of supervised release following her prison sentence and she was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine.

SHARON CALDWELL previously pled guilty in October 2007 to a one-count information alleging that between June 11, 1999 and December 12, 2003, she knowingly provided nine firearms to her husband. Throughout that time, SHARON CALDWELL knew her husband had been adjudicated a mental defective. A copy of the Information is attached.

Brian Douglas Caldwell was sentenced on August 25, 2005, to 78 months in prison following his guilty plea to possession of a firearm after having been adjudicated mentally defective and to

falsifying US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) Form 4473 when purchasing a firearm. In June 2003, Brian Caldwell falsely indicated on the ATF form that he had not been adjudicated a mental defective when in fact, Brian Caldwell was so adjudicated in May 1999 and his wife, Sharon Caldwell, was appointed as his legal Guardian/Conservator by the Kanawha County Circuit Court. As a result of falsifying the document, Brian Caldwell purchased a Colt .223 caliber semi-automatic assault rifle. In addition to his prison sentence, Brian Caldwell was also ordered to receive mental health counseling and treatment while incarcerated.

United States Attorney Charles T. Miller stated, "Federal Prosecutors and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are extremely committed to our District's initiative to reduce and prevent violent gun crime – HARD TIME FOR GUN CRIME. A person who has been adjudicated mentally defective is prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition. They, along with felons, drug addicts, people convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence or subject to a domestic violence protective order, and other prohibited persons have lost their right to possess firearms. To protect the safety of law abiding citizens and their right to possess firearms, we will aggressively investigate and prosecute violators."

Paul J. Vido, commented, "Sharon Caldwell's flagrant disregard for the safety of her husband and others is not only totally unacceptable, but was a potentially dangerous criminal act. Sadly, this past year the indiscriminate shooting and massacre of innocent people by armed mentally ill and disturbed individuals has highlighted the fact that our fight against gun violence is far from over. Sharon Caldwell's conviction and prison sentence should send a strong message to others who would purposely provide firearms to a person who has been adjudicated mentally defective or to anyone who is prohibited from legally possessing firearms."

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Lisa G. Johnston handled the prosecution.

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